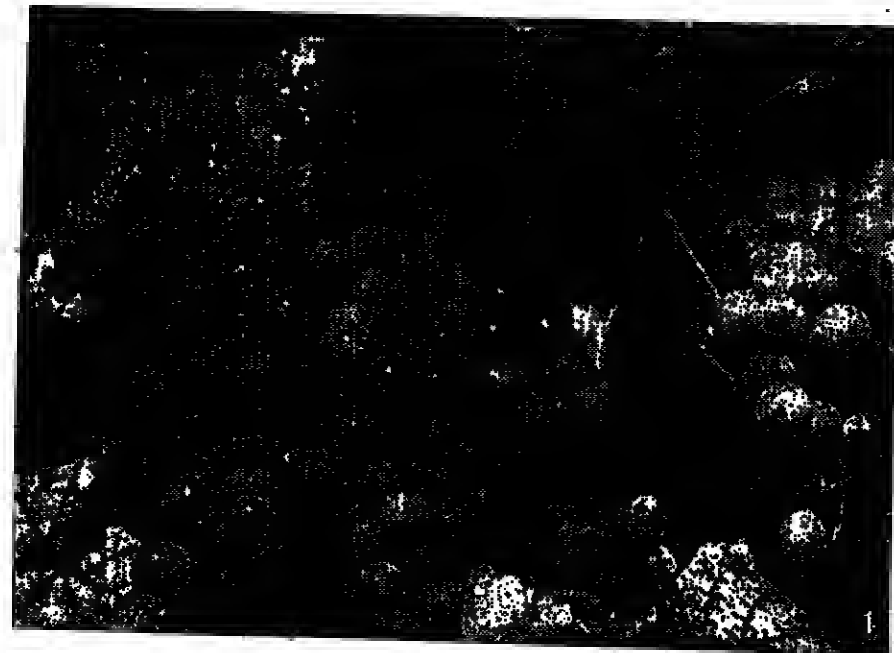


Routes to tour in Germany

The German Wine Route



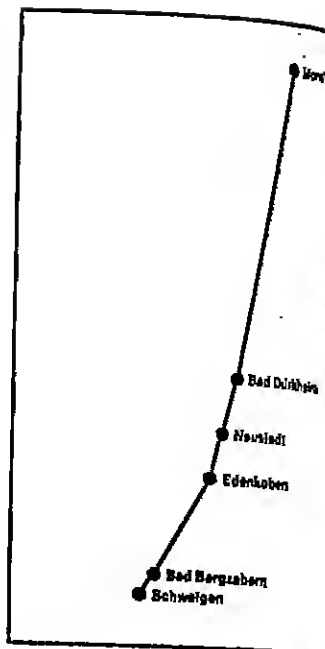
German roads will get you there — to the Palatinate woods, for instance, where 2,000 years ago Roman legionaries were already growing wine. Each vine yields up to three litres of various kinds of wine, such as Riesling, Sylvaner, Müller-Thurgau, Scheurebe or Gewürztraminer. Grapes are gathered in the autumn but the season never ends. Palatinate people are always ready to throw a party, and wine always holds pride of place, generating *Gemütlichkeit* and good cheer. As at the annual Bad Dürkheim Wurstmarkt, or sausage market, the Deldashelm goat auction and the election of the German Wine Queen in Naustadt. Stay the night in wine-growing villages, taste the wines and become a connoisseur.

Visit Germany and let the Wine Route be your guide.



- 1 Grapas on the vine
- 2 Dorrenbach
- 3 St Martin
- 4 Deldashelm
- 5 Wachenheim

DZT DEUTSCHE ZENTRALE FÜR TOURISMUS EV.
Beethovenstrasse 69, D-6000 Frankfurt/M.



The German Tribune

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Kohl finds Europe a hard row to hoe

provisions for Mediterranean agriculture.

The sim behind this pledge is to dispel the reservations France, Italy and Greece have about allowing Spain and Portugal to join the European Community.

At the Brussels EEC summit in March the Chancellor was so keen on harmony that he still felt he sensed cordiality, mutual understanding and a common sense of will.

But they failed to stand up to closer scrutiny in the cold, clear light of reality. A variety of national interests and though the result might be that farm domestic considerations have gained greater importance, both in Bonn and elsewhere.

How else could the Bonn Cabinet have instructed Agriculture Minister Ignatz Kiechle to aim, at the Luxembourg farm price talkathon, at a three-per-cent increase for German farmers?

Bonn must surely know how much better-off German farmers are than their counterparts in other EEC countries and that the Common Agricultural Policy will force the Finance Minister this year, or next at the latest, to rifle the taxpayer's pockets yet again.

A cold chill must creep down the Chancellor's back when he euls to mind the June Stuttgart EEC summit.

As current chairman of the Ten he preferred not to upset the general harmony of the March summit by risking disputes on decisions.

So an unprecedented number of decisions are due to be reached at Stuttgart on topics ranging from youth unem-

ployment, free trade within the EEC, acid rain, coal and steel and the Mediterranean package to the reorientation of EEC finances. At the end of Bonn's spell in the chair a clear step forward was to have been taken, whereas a wide range of people are now worried the Stuttgart summit might turn out to be a fiasco. They include German diplomats at the EEC who are struggling through the preliminaries and both



British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and Bonn Chancellor Helmut Kohl at 10 Downing Street. Mrs Thatcher later described the talks as "the best we've had". (Photo: AP)

Chancellor at Downing Street

EC finance was one of the main issues when Bonn Chancellor Helmut Kohl met British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher in London.

But little was agreed; instead, the clouds of another unpleasant budget dispute gathered on the horizon.

Chancellor Kohl flew back disappointed on one point at least: his had wanted more support for moves towards European integration.

But Mrs Thatcher made it clear that she expects Europe to take smaller, more pragmatic steps in this direction.

There was solid agreement on Ostpolitik and defence matters and on solidarity with the Americans.

At the Stuttgart EEC summit next month, Mrs Thatcher would like to see a settlement on the dispute over EEC finances. Full steam ahead into the European future would not be possible until Britain had made sure it would pay less into the EEC kitty.

Yet both leaders demonstrated how the most intensive political friendship can be maintained without any real headway being made on major issues. She described the talks as "the best we've had."

Kohl in London created the impression of being an extraordinarily personable politician, serious yet kind-hearted.

Alongside Britain's Iron Lady he cannot have failed to make an impression. In the long run it could prove a substantial contribution toward European unity.

Rainer Bonhorst

(Westdeutsche Allgemeine, 23 April 1983)

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The political message behind the Beirut bomb blast

The bomb blast at the US embassy in Beirut was not just a killer: it accomplished a major political mission.

It reminded the United States what political forces are at large in the Lebanon and that a settlement there is impossible unless their interests are taken into account.

The blast is also fresh proof for those who either fail to appreciate or try to ignore how unreliable and fragile any agreement between Israel and Lebanon really is.

Six months ago a similar bomb blast that shook the Phalange headquarters in the heart of Beirut brought to an abrupt end high-flown Israeli hopes, expectations and aspirations.

The Lebanese President-elect, Bashir Gemayel, was killed. His place may have been taken by his brother Amin, but an entirely different political note was sounded.

The shock waves of the latest explo-

sion were immediately registered by sensitive political seismographs in Jerusalem.

President Reagan was at pains to make a personal statement that the blast had strengthened US determination to arrive at a political settlement in Lebanon and the Middle East.

But the first reactions behind the scenes were not long in coming. Talks between Israeli, Lebanese and US delegates were cancelled.

At the same time the White House has stepped up the tempo of its bid to negotiate a settlement. It had already sensed with frustration that prospects of a settlement in the Lebanon were being talked away in view of the substantial remaining differences between Beirut and Jerusalem.

Now the sole remaining point at issue is Major Haddad, the commander of

Continued on page 15

PEOPLE

Nation pays its tribute to a German intellectual



Richard Löwenthal, publicist, SPD ideologue and independent intellectual par excellence, has turned 75.

Löwenthal made an international name for himself as a scholar and researcher of world communism and socialist movements of the West's political culture.

He has been an active SPD member since the 1930s — after a brief spell as a communist student leader — and is the deputy chairman of the Social Democrats' basic values commission.

The SPD marked his birthday with a major celebration in Bonn and the nation paid tribute to the scholar with the award to him by President Karl Carstens of the *Grosses Bundesverdienstkreuz mit Stern*, one of the most coveted German orders of merit.

To mark his 70th birthday five years ago, Berlin's Free University held an international academic symposium, presenting Löwenthal with a voluminous special publication with contributions by fellow academics and German and foreign politicians. He was also awarded Berlin's Ernst Reuter Plaque.

All these marks of homage testify to the world-wide esteem in which Löwenthal is held and bear witness to the extensive range of his activities.

"Rix" — as his friends call him — can look back on a life full of ups and downs and intellectual adventure marked by single-mindedness of purpose and the personal charisma it takes to put one's stamp on an era.

He owes his success to his unflagging energy, his lively intellect, commitment to a cause and the undaunted courage with which he has repeatedly intervened to bring order or clarity into a confused era.

He earned his Ph.D. at Heidelberg University in 1931. Immediately after Hitler came to power and banned the SPD, Löwenthal joined the socialist resistance group *Neu Beginnen* (New Beginning).

Together with this group, he went first to Czechoslovakia (in 1933) and later to Britain.

In these two countries and in France he published a great many essays under the pseudonym Paul Sering, which was soon to become widely known.

After the war, he was first a foreign correspondent of the *London Observer*, working for a while in Yugoslavia and Germany. Back in Britain, he became the paper's foreign affairs commentator.

By that time, he already has a firm reputation as a publicist throughout the English-speaking world.

On the German Social Democratic scene, Paul Sering made a comeback in early 1947 with his much quoted *Jenseits des Kapitalismus* (Beyond Capitalism).

He wanted the SPD to become a clear political part of Western democracy while acting as an economically independent "third force" between capitalism and communism in its ties with other socialist parties in Europe.

At that time, Löwenthal still regarded himself as a Marxist. But he later pub-

licly revised large passages of this concept under the impact of Europe's post-war history.

Much of his subsequent work was devoted to the analysis of the structures and trends of world communism, with special emphasis on the Soviet Bloc, China and the Western communist parties. It was here that he excelled with undisputed mastery and authority.

In recognition of his expertise in this field he was appointed to the Otto Subr Institute and the Eastern Europe Institute of Berlin's Free University in 1961. This marked the final transition from journalistic to scholarly work.

Löwenthal intently expanded his academic work beyond Berlin by attending many international congresses abroad, by becoming a member of several foreign societies, by lecture tours and by research work in Stanford, Tel Aviv, Oxford, New York, Berkeley, North Carolina and many other places.

All important Western publications have been open to him and have welcomed his foreign affairs and cultural analysis.

He was for many years the top politi-

cal adviser of Willy Brandt. He and Brandt wrote a biography of Ernst Reuter which was published in 1957.

Later, he supported Helmut Schmidt's efforts to keep the SPD on a course committed to the Western alliance.

In this past few years, Löwenthal has repeatedly tried to persuade the Social Democrats from going along with short-lived fads and flirting with the "interimist scene." He has stressed that the Social Democrats' main function is to promote and uphold the social interests and democratic traditions of industrial labour.

He has occasionally clashed with his old friend Willy Brandt, as during the student unrest of the 1960s.

He was so disturbed by the higher education policy of the Social Democrats that he helped to establish the *Bund Freiheit der Wissenschaft* (Freedom of science federation) becoming the organisation's first national president.

He opted out of the federation later when he felt that a conflict with the SPD was in the offing.

Here, too, it became obvious that Löwenthal's intellectual and political home is the SPD, despite his criticism of the party on individual issues.

Democratic socialism is for him an indispensable productive element of democratic political culture. And this will remain so as long as the SPD itself abides by this concept, adds positive substance to it and defends it.

Professor of philosophy, Waldemar Schreckenberger, is Chancellor Kohl's chief administrator — that is, State Secretary at the Chancellery.

Schreckenberger has been a close friend and confidant of the Chancellor for a long time — they were friends at school.

His baptism at Bonn was one of fire. It happened when during the final phase of the coalition talks, the general secretary of the CDU, Edmund Stoiber, accused him of keeping the minutes in-

Kohl confidant is top Bonn administrator



Waldemar Schreckenberger... the restrained professor.

(Photo: Bundesbildstelle)

the Freiburg FDP programme) during his doctoral work in Saarbrücken.

On top of his government work — he had meanwhile become the head of the Department for Legislation and Administration at the Rhineland-Palatinate Chancellery in Mainz — Schreckenberger took time off to earn himself a professorship. The leave of absence was granted to him by Helmut Kohl, then prime minister of Rhineland-Palatinate.

Schreckenberger has no political idols, not even Konrad Adenauer whom, as he says, he considered too authoritarian when he was young.

Unlike Kohl, who like no other post-war chancellor lays claim to being the successor of famous statesmen, Schreck-



Richard Löwenthal... since 1930s.

In this, Richard Löwenthal proved beyond party lines and only he hoped that we shall benefit for many more years incisive and brilliantly formulated contributions to our political life.

His outbursts when others prove to be slow in grasping. But he was quick to revert to crystal-clear rationality.

We all and our still young cannot afford not to take advantage of his Anglo-Saxon experience.

Alexander (Der Tagesspiegel)

enberger has no politician who guards us an ideal.

He prefers to lean on such philosophers as Kant, Descartes and von Puffendorf. As he says, the exception rather than the rule politicians to come up with such a cautious modesty as such as it did.

This cautious modesty is not a petty all-encompassing creation of politics — and hence also a necessity from his own Chancellor. Schreckenberger's commitment to the CDU, Edmund Stoiber, accused him of keeping the minutes in-

correctly. Schreckenberger's denial was abnormally sharp for a normally restrained person.

Making mock of himself, Schreckenberger once described himself as a "sort of failed scientist."

He admits that he found it "more tempting to be able to influence political processes than to lead a professional life."

And indeed, the post in which he has succeeded — Glöbke, Carstens, Ehms, Schüler, Konow, and Lahnstein is the most influential administrative position in Bonn.

As a former department head in the Rhineland-Palatinate government, head of the State Chancellery and state Minister of Justice, Schreckenberger has plenty of experience to fall back on.

The fact that he is a schoolfriend of Kohl furthered his career in Rhineland-Palatinate and the personal trust the Chancellor puts in him has earned him his present post.

A perfect understanding between the Chancellor and his chief administrator has been essential for this office for all Chancellors from Konrad Adenauer to Helmut Schmidt.

Schreckenberger's career began in 1960 — not as a university professor but as an assessor in a district government in Rhineland-Palatinate. This was so despite the fact that he was the assistant of Werner Malhofer (one of the fathers of

BUSINESS

Bunny on the run: US sales of VW Rabbit plummet

Volkswagen executives in the United States still have fond memories of the 1979/80 oil crisis when motorists lined up at filling stations for gas at \$1.50 a gallon.

Fuel was scarce and everyone expected to grow even more expensive. It seemed to be no choice but to turn to small cars that used less gas.

Those were the days, when there was a car to match the Rabbit, the US version of the Volkswagen Golf, fuel economy.

Americans were particularly impressed by the diesel-engine Rabbit, a champion fuel miser. There were waiting lists of six to nine months for the Rabbit diesel, which is still the most popular car on the market.

US car-buyers even allowed themselves to be pressured by hard-nosed VW salesmen into buying superfluous extras to make sure of a Rabbit diesel.

The oil crisis has long been forgotten. Diesel is readily available and gasoline is here and there at less than a dollar a gallon.

The Rabbit, after having emerged the winner of the 1979/80 crisis, is now in the throes of the most serious crisis it has undergone since being introduced in the US market.

It is increasingly clear that Americans do not really like small cars, and certainly not the Rabbit any more.

They want economy models, but not small cars," Roger B. Smith of General Motors says. And now gasoline is less expensive, economy no longer matters as much as it did.

What US motorists want are larger models, and VW of America has none. To Schreckenberger's committee, the Bonneville, which was from taking a hand in the 1980 election, was cancelled last year, and renamed it the Rhineland-Palatinate.

Chrysler are still manufacturing the New Yorker, while Ford continue to produce the Crown Victoria and the Mercury Grand Marquis.

The largest Cadillac dealer in the United States is running an advertising campaign with the slogan: This is your chance to buy a full-sized Cadillac; only with occasional status.

he differed with the prevailing view that the squaring of the circle should be solved by using the code as an instrument.

Unlike most politicians, Schreckenberger is not bent on making a name for himself along with his friend Kohl played a major role in the pointment.

Ever since Glöbke, the post has been held by smooth-tongued, or as Schreckenberger "pragmatically serving" rather than men with ambitious own.

Though "the spirit of the gone from the Chancellery," requirement of smooth functioning remained unchanged.

So far, there have been no mistakes made at the Chancellery. Schreckenberger heads the officials, organisers, agenda-chancellor and personally shapes.

Since Kohl is inclined to do every car we made," recalls Peter

Welher, VW of America's head of marketing and sales.

But there has been a steady downturn since summer 1981. Last year alone the Westmoreland assembly lines were shut down for 23 weeks.

In January 1983 the facility was closed for a fortnight and second-shift workers were fired once and for all. But orders were not even enough to keep a single shift in constant employment.

In May and June the company is ordering a shutdown for another fortnight to reduce the stockpiles of unsold cars, and it is doubtful whether two weeks will be enough.

In the first 10 days of April only 111 Rabbits were sold, or roughly 57 per cent fewer than last year, while the Rabbit's share of the US market has slumped from a poor 1.8 to an abysmal 0.6 per cent.

The assembly works were designed for a daily output of roughly 1,000 cars. No-one can tell whether that many will ever be sold again.

VW executives have decided once and for all that they will not need the second assembly facility in Sterling Heights, where 180,000 Rabbits a year were to be built starting in 1984.

The first chief executive of VW of America, James McLemore, was worried in September 1981 that this additional capacity under construction at a cost of roughly DM500m might be available "too late rather than too soon."

Mr McLemore, who has since been fired, had nothing but a wry smile for sceptics who suspected that the cars that eventually rolled off the assembly lines at Sterling Heights might end up being Japanese models.

In this respect he has been proved right. The new facility is being taken over by Chrysler.

Chrysler stepped in when construction was 80 per cent completed. No-one is saying how much they paid but there can be little doubt that Volkswagen have lost a packet on the deal.

Carl H. Hahn, board chairman of the Volkswagen parent company, says VW of America has become its No. 1 problem.

But his explanation for the current unsatisfactory state of affairs sounds strange coming from a salary-earning executive.

He says Volkswagen of America is in its predicament because it had too much entrepreneurial freedom.

Herr Hahn took the VW Beetle to America in the 1950s and 1960s and set Volkswagen up in business in the United States.

What he probably means is that Wolfsburg did not keep as close enough a check on its US subsidiary's operations. His predecessor, Toni Schmücker, let Mr McLemore have his head.

There can no longer be the slightest doubt that he did not put this entrepreneurial freedom to best use.

Even though the Westmoreland works have only been in operation for five years its facilities are no longer up to the latest requirements and VW's

every car we made," recalls Peter

competitors have cut costs in comparison. Volkswagen have to ship in car body parts by truck from a pressed steel works in West Virginia.

"We haven't yet quite achieved our competitors' level of automation," Mr Welher admits. The unions initially negotiated wage deals that gave VW an advantage over other US manufacturers.

But this advantage has quickly been sacrificed. Wages at VW are now as high as at Ford and General Motors and a little higher than at Chrysler. The Westmoreland works does not break even until output is at 85 per cent of capacity.

Other manufacturers reach break-even point sooner, but as Mr Welher points out, "no-one can make compacts at a profit when production is running at 50 per cent of capacity."

If the Rabbit were to sell at a profit people would have to be prepared to pay much higher prices, and they have long ceased to be prepared to do so.

Volkswagen of America has sold itself so hard as an all-American corporation that the Rabbit has forfeited any exotic attraction it might have retained.

"In a flight of fancy we Americanised the Rabbit too much," Herr Hahn is quoted as saying in an interview with *auto motor sport*.

"We made the mistake of designing our US model in such a way that a European would have driven straight into the first ditch with it," he said.

That was a performance rating customers could buy less expensively from other US manufacturers. What was more, trouble with the fuel injection and exhaust harmed the Rabbit's reputation.

Volkswagen no longer enjoy the reputation of manufacturing a particularly high-quality car, and deliberate re-Europeanisation of the Rabbit has failed to remedy this.

It may now have tauter suspension and a redesigned interior, but too many compacts on sale in the US market are the splitting image of the Rabbit.

Its Japanese competitors, manufactured by Toyota, Honda and Nissan, have a higher reputation these days than the US-made German car.

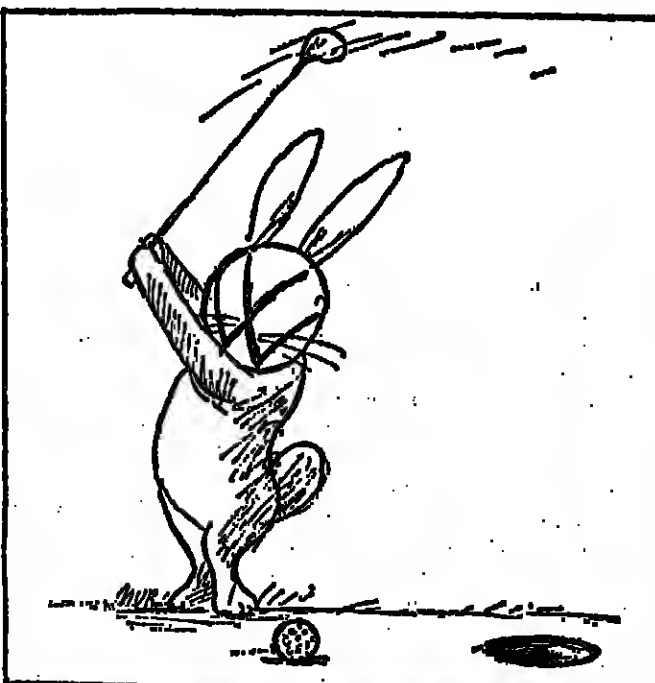
"Volkswagens aren't as highly rated as Japanese cars," says Dan Cass, a car dealer based on the outskirts of New York.

He is busy trying to sell his last VWs at a discount and plans to concentrate entirely on BMWs in future. He feels the BMW is a better seller.

The decline of the Rabbit's image is nowhere more clearly reflected than in sales statistics. Nearly all competing models have overtaken it.

There were nearly three times as many buyers in the first quarter of 1983 for the Nissan Sentra, the basic version of which costs about \$1,000 less than the cheapest Rabbit.

The Honda Accord and Civic, the Toyota Tercel and Corolla, the Amer-



Volkswagen's Golf/Rabbit: driving with the wrong club.

(Cartoon: Lutz Muehlhans/Siddutsche Zeitung) can Motors Alliance and the GM, Ford and Chrysler compacts are all well ahead of the Rabbit in sales.

So the smallest VW sold in the US market runs a risk of suffering a fate similar to that of its predecessor, the Beetle, which was a roaring success as an oddity in America and was not withdrawn until it was practically no longer saleable.

America, says Peter Welher, is the world's most innovation-addicted market. In it the VW compact is increasingly assuming the role of a white elephant that worries Volkswagen dealers stiff.

Dealers are in a gloomy mood. In January they issued a statement to the effect that they were totally demoralised and had doubts as to the future because the present was so bleak and desolate.

Peter Liebman owns one of the largest VW dealerships in the United States and is chairman of the dealers' advisory council.

He would prefer to say nothing at all. "If you have nothing positive to say, you might as well say nothing." But after lengthy reflection something positive does occur to him.

Only the Honda Accord, he says, can measure up to the Rabbit. Its other competitors are nil worse.

The Rabbit GTI, launched about six months ago, was extremely well received by the US public, while the VW Santana and Passat, marketed as the Quantum in the USA, were absolutely superb; the Americans had more yet to appreciate them.

As an experienced car salesman he has a tale or two to tell of how little interest Americans can have in things technical.

He also sells Buicks and regularly has to work hard to persuade potential customers to test-drive the new model. Their last car was a Buick; it was fine, so why should they bother driving round the block in the latest one?

Most customers, he says, couldn't care less that the new Buick has a front-wheel drive, a new chassis and an up-to-date engine.

Technically the VW has much to offer, so this lack of customer interest is a sales handicap.

Auto advertising in the United States is unbelievably aggressive, conveying the impression that even sedate family saloons mainly serve the purpose of making a getaway from hired killers in the streets of San Francisco.

So Volkswagen try to sound a different note by emphasising German engineering, and with a modicum of suc-

Continued on page 10

■ HANOVER TRADE FAIR

Computer technology steals the show in a competitive field

Computer technology was the big success at the Hanover Trade Fair. In cold business terms, nothing else touched it.

But interest overall was high and the question now is: will the great interest shown at the world's largest capital goods fair be reflected in orders?

Data processing and communications technology is benefiting from the rationalisation of office work. The aim is to do two things at the same time: cut back on wage costs and cope with ever-increasing amounts of data.

Equipment is getting smaller all the time, meaning that it is becoming more and more practicable for office use.

Sales in other branches of industry were well behind. One spokesman for the fair said he knew of only one really large order outside the communications technology field: a DM1.2m order placed with a German plant and equipment supplier.

Business in the plant and mechanical and electrical engineering, the pillars of the capital goods industry, would have to pick up considerably in the next few months if interest at Hanover were to be reflected in orders.

But there is no sign so far that German industry as a whole is prepared to

invest more this year than it did in 1982, which was a poor investment year.

It is almost impossible to assess the many specialised "fairs within a fair" that, after a long and arduous restructuring process, now make up the Hanover Fair.

There were great differences in all sectors; the broad sector of precision mechanics, for example, where efforts to streamline production processes still proceed.

The same applies to propulsion and conveyor technology.

In the machine tools and welding sectors, there was plenty of interest in the exhibits but there was no marked improvement in business.

In steel there were some signs of better business. But this was primarily due to the need to restock inventories.

The Hanover Fair reflected the growing complexity of modern technology. Systems that transcend specific branches of industry are gaining ground constantly, as shown by the increasingly intensive use of electronics in mechanical engineering.

This also makes it increasingly difficult for the potential buyer seeking solutions to his particular problems to obtain a clear picture.

All this has forced the Hanover Fair

to restructure and depart from the previous strict division comprising branches of industry in favour of a comprehensive alternative.

The so-called microtronic section in Hanover is a telling example that marks the beginning of this process.

Microtronics is the interplay of various sectors of industry such as mechanical and electrical engineering, office and communications technology, energy technology and conveyor and transport technology. The organisers' aim here was to demonstrate the complex applications of the exhibits to a potential buyer.

There were no technical sensations at the fair but there were many technical novelties that were further developments of existing equipment.

Some examples: the world's first compact neon light housed in a light bulb rather than in a tube. The bulb fits any normal socket.

The 12-watt version of the Centralux light corresponds to a conventional 60-watt bulb. There is also a 16-watt version. Both are ignited by a special electronic starter. It will take a few months before the new light bulbs made by Osram GmbH become available to the public.

There was a portable electricity plant

made specially for artisans and market gardeners. The operating generator is surprisingly small: a four-stroke engine is started by a petrol. Once going, it switches to 25 kilowatts, will run for three hours on litres of diesel. (Makers: GmhH, Pfullingen.)

People on mountain farms or in hunting lodges will benefit from a portable hydroelectric plant that has no foundations and no running stream bed.

It is simply put straight into a stream. The plant provides 220 volts at 50 Hz with the help of an electronic regulator. The company, and the plant causes no whitewater. (Österreichisches Versuchszentrum, Seibersdorf, Vienna.)

There was also a mobile power generator that can be used as a source of energy for any automobile engine. The generator produces just 40 pennings in the market supply. (Goddard Enterprises, Australia.)

Various novelties were on display in the communications sector. A portable device makes it possible to transmit and receive radio signals. (OTRX) is the size of a small calculator. The owner is alerted by a buzzing sound to a message of up to 160 units. (GmhH, Taunusstein.)

Helmut Maier and Volker (Süddeutsche Zeitung, 1983)

Germany's biggest supplier in Augsburg, a subsidiary of the Werke Karlsruhe. The largest supplier is the Swedish firm. The biggest in the world is the Unimation Inc.

Some 140 makers new show in the Western Industrial with ten per cent of these companies counting for 80 per cent of sales.

Competition is tough and new bitors in Hall 13 admit that they sell below cost.

So anybody who wants to buy this game needs not only know above all plenty of cash.

As a result, many small disappear from the market. Industry becomes a real money.

In fact, even large corporations run out of steam, as shows by Westinghouse takeover of the.

The reasons for the use of widely. While Japan uses them to replace labour according to Daimler-Benz head of production Werner Niefer, Europe is interested in more flexibility in the.

Fixed welding production is a rapid adaptation to changing conditions impossible. Programmable robots are used, a models could be manufactured in same production line.

While a fixed production produces about 1,000 cars a year for itself, the use of robots number of units needed to 400.

This greatly reduces the investing in a product that cannot be replaced in the necessary numbers.

So what robots replace is not human labour but an obsolete technology. Henry Ford's assembly line.

And the dangers lurking on the Euro-

■ FINANCE

Bank lending risks: it's a whole new ball game



Euromarkets are the only explanation for the fact that Third World countries were able to get so deep into debt in the first place. The Euromarkets are operated by all institutions engaged in international banking — not only through their national parent companies but also and above all through their branches and subsidiaries in the Euromarkets where they benefit from cost advantages.

In these places, such as Luxembourg, London, the New York Free Trade Zone, the Cayman Islands, Hong Kong, Singapore and Bahrain, the business volume has increased by an average of 25 per cent a year over the past ten years. And the bank supervision authorities in the home countries of the parent banks knew nothing about it.

Because of the slump at home, many German banks lost their traditional credit customers after 1974. They sought and found new customers in the East Bloc and the Third World.

But many of the East Bloc deals that are worrying them today were not entirely voluntary. The last loans given to Poland — which should never have been granted, as the banks know today — were extended under the pressure of Chancellor Helmut Schmidt's gentle but firm persuasion.

But the loans given to oil-importing developing countries were granted without any outside pressures.

The banks used the opportunity the Euromarkets presented after the 1973 oil price shock.

The Opec price hikes played havoc with the current account balances of developing and threshold countries.

Internationally operating banks jumped into the breach with credits. The funding of the loans was made possible through recycled Opec surpluses — and recycling that was much praised at the time.

German banks had no pang of conscience at the time because there were sound reasons for the financial credits they extended. These loans did not only make profits for the banks but also boosted the economy as a whole.

After all, was it not only reasonable for Germany, an oil-importing nation, to do everything in its power to pay some of the oil bill by boosting exports?

The fact is that the bank loans to developing threshold and East Bloc countries ensured their ability to buy German goods.

But the clear conscience did not last. The introduction of roll-over loans posed problems.

This, too, was described by Abs at the time: normally, a banker will give a loan only if he knows what the money will be used for and where the repayments will come from.

Abs underscored at the time that this was different on Euromarkets. When Euromarket loans fell due, they were repaid with money obtained through new credits. The last borrower gets his credit on a long-term basis but his changing creditors, whose commitment is short-

term, roll over the refinancing interest to the borrower.

This eliminates any risk due to changing interest rates for the lending banks because the borrower bears the burden of rising interest rates.

What happened was that, in 1979, the year of the second oil shock, the countries where creditor banks are located embarked on an anti-inflationary course. And since this meant higher interest rates, the high interest was passed on to the borrowers (including all debts) as part of the roll-over procedure.

The borrowers' interest burden thus grew considerably and the rising dollar exchange rate increased their nominal volume of debt.

This sort of development could only have worked without repercussions but there have been high growth rates, high world market prices for raw materials and open markets in the industrial world.

But the recession put pressure on world market prices and promoted protectionism in the industrial nations.

The permanent rescheduling candidates (Sierra Leone, Sudan, Togo, Zaire) were joined by such threshold countries as Brazil and even some oil-exporting nations like Mexico, Iran and Nigeria. They were no longer able to service principal and interest repayments on schedule. Rescheduling applications mounted as a result.

This has made country risks an explosive problem for the banks. Now there is talk of more stringent banking supervision even in the United States. In Germany, the Bonn government, the Bank Supervision Authority and the Bundesbank must stand by with liquid funds to bail out banks should they find themselves in trouble.

There are three major questions under discussion today:

● How to limit country risk to manageable proportions.

● How to treat country risks in bank balance sheets.

● How to prevent foreign subsidiaries of German banks from remaining a vulnerable spot for Germany's banking industry because they are not subject to German banking laws and are therefore outside the control of the German Bank Supervision Authority.

The Bonn government, the Bank Supervision Authority and the Bundesbank have kept aloof from the first question. Nobody has been prepared to suggest a quantitative limitation of country risks by restricting the total lending volume to a country.

It was the banks themselves who came up with an answer by adopting the principle that the credit volume may not exceed 18 times the nation's own assets.

The parent banks have always abided by this principle while their subsidiaries have not.

The lack of market clarity has prevented risks being reduced in time. The banks were unaware that their international competitors throughout the world acted by the same principle and that this led to a dangerous accumulation of balance of payments credits given to the same country by various banks.

(Head of the Bank Supervision Authority, Inge Lore Bähr).

Germany is also rather liberal in the handling of country risks in balance sheets. America and Britain would like to see the Bonn government press the banks to arrive at a uniform method of balance sheet adjustments for accounts receivable from abroad.

The prevailing view in Britain and America is that adjustments are unnecessary if rescheduling operations are assisted by the IMF, which would indicate the likelihood that a country will get back on its feet.

In Germany, there are no prescribed minimum quotas for balance sheet adjustments. The amount is decided by the board, which acts in its own right though sometimes urged by the Bundesbank and the Bank Supervision Authority.

Manfred Meier-Preschany, Dresdner Bank board member in charge of foreign business: "It would be wrong to lump all countries together. For some countries, rescheduling operations are not enough. They have to have the durations of the rescheduled loans extended."

As a result, adjustments in the balance sheet depend on each individual case and on the bank's ability to make an adjustment, i.e. its profits.

For example, balance sheet analysts say that Deutsche Bank has made a full adjustment for its Polish credits in 1982 by allowing DM500m for emergencies.

The third question as to making foreign subsidiaries subject to German banking laws is about to be settled through EEC regulations.

Community guidelines that would make the foreign subsidiaries subject to

Now there is talk of even more stringent banking supervision, even in the USA

the parent company's national banking laws have already been drafted and are ready for adoption.

As a result, German banking laws should include the obligation for banks to present the Bank Supervision Authority with consolidated balance sheets that would make it possible to check whether parent and subsidiaries combined have exceeded the permissible credit volume which is based on a bank's own capital.

Since the necessary amendment of the Banking Act has been put aside by the Bonn government due to pressing other business, the Bank Supervision Authority depends on a gentlemen's agreement.

Under the agreement, 31 banks have volunteered to permit some such checks. This was a tough decision for many of them because it means that they either have to reduce their volume of business to stay within the limits set by their own capital or have to seek new capital.

But what is a chief bank executive to do when he is unable to raise new capital at a particular time? This has prompted Wolfgang Seipp, chief executive of Commerzbank, to ask whether it is not incompatible with the board's duties under company law voluntarily to enter into a gentlemen's agreement that could have a negative effect on earnings.

Who knows whether German bankers would have ventured into international business had they known the dangers that lay ahead?

Rudolf Herk (Die Zeit, 15 April 1983)

Robots: the miracle-or-monster argument rages on

"see" and "feel" the materials they work on.

As a result, they know exactly how to assemble, weld, measure or align the individual part.

The main power behind the development of robots is the auto industry which now "employs" 60 per cent of these iron workers.

But the growing precision of robots could bring about a change. The most sophisticated models can turn the tiniest of screws with a precision of one-tenth of a millimetre and can thus be used in precision assembly work.

There are now 3,500 robots working in West Germany, 1,200 more than a year ago. Sweden is the world leader in the use of robots, outstripping Japan.

The two countries next in line, the USA and Germany, use roughly the same number of robots relative to their size.

Since human labour is predominant in the assembly of dishwashers, radios, typewriters and TV sets, experts estimate that there is a vast scope for robot expansion in these sectors. As a result, the advance of robots in these industries will be faster than elsewhere.

It is still unknown to what extent robots supplant human labour.

The Institute for Production Technology and Automation of the Stuttgart-based Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft estimates that half of today's 1.2 million assembly line jobs in this country are endangered.

But forecasts on the robots' effects on jobs are full of uncertainties, except for the obvious fact that rationalisation and

automation boil down to replacing people by machines.

But experience in the auto industry, the biggest user of robots, seems to disprove this.

In 1981, Germany's auto-makers employed 660,000 people, 78,000 more than ten years earlier. The number of autos made in Germany did not rise but decline in that period: from about four million in 1971 to about 3.9 million in 1981.

Last December, Opel chief executive Ferdinand Piech told the American Chamber of Commerce in Germany that growth did not "manifest itself in the number of units but in more sophisticated and more complex technology and hence the higher value of the vehicles produced."

Daimler-Benz boosted its labour force by 50 per cent in the past five years, using the extra labour only for the manufacture of extras. The pollution and noise abatement regulations in various countries also require additional staff, both in the production and the development sectors.

By now, the iron workers who do the welding, spraying, stacking of crankshafts and turning of sheetmetal are an integral part of the auto industry.

The capital goods industry has meanwhile adjusted to a growing market, at least in the medium term. But the big manufacturers in this field are meeting with ever stiffer competition as even medium-sized companies in the plant and machinery field supply their machinery with electronic brains.

The explosiveness of the risk is enormous... Mexico was a foretaste

Foretaste of this risk was provided August 1982 when Mexico, much to everybody's surprise, had to ask for a rescheduling of its loans.

The US Administration, the Bank for International Settlements and a number of central banks had not acted when the explosion would have been contained.

What was it that years ago prompted German bankers to risk venturing into new line of business that is inescapably linked with the Euromarkets?

They were warned at the time by Hermann Josef Abs, the then executive of Deutsche Bank, president of the dangers lurking on the Euro-

The time is ripe for the European Community to take another look at peace and security problems, says a joint report by the heads of the five major European research institutes on international affairs.

It should make a greater contribution to security policy, both at the political level and at the operational level.

Military self-reliance and a decoupling from the United States is ruled out if for no other reason than cost; defence spending would rise to domestically unacceptable levels.

The Federal Republic of Germany was represented by the research unit of the Foreign Affairs Association.

The wide-ranging report goes into what is likely to be lost if the pressure of protectionism breaks down the core of the European Community, the Common Market.

It also says that the European Monetary System should be treated as one of the key means of controlling the current economic crisis instead of being regarded merely as a part of European integration.

And it says that jargon in the EEC institutions has in a few years reached a peak of incomprehensibility.

Europe is in a flat spin, say the authors, and the only way to cope is to be prepared to apply the opposite lock, not to keep cool, calm and detached.

They have joined forces in sounding a note of alarm.

"Profound unrest and urgent anxiety prompt this report" are the opening words.

"If nothing is done we will face the disintegration of the most important European achievements since the end of the Second World War."

These words were written even before the experts could have known that alienation was in the offing between Bonn and Paris.

What they at present still diagnose as a tragedy could well turn out to be something even worse, with European countries having no-one to blame but themselves.

Thirty years after the Second World War finally deprived them of their status as the centre of the civilised world they face the prospect of total eclipse.

The report, dramatically entitled Progress or Decline: The EEC's Decision, cannot be expected to herald a change. Bad habits are too deeply ingrained.

After all, not even direct elections to the European Assembly in 1980 succeeded in making Europe more familiar to the Europeans.

Should there be growing lack of interest next time round, in 1984, meaning an even poorer turnout, it will merely provide a further alibi for national egoism.

In effect, egoism of this kind fritters away both the individual and the common benefit that might otherwise be derived.

It is thus much to the authors' credit that they refrain from flogging the dead horse of European ideology; it is an ideology no-one is interested in hearing more about.

They make no appeal to idealism of whatever kind. They merely list everything that runs the risk of being forfeited if the core of the European Community, the Common Market, breaks down under pressure from protectionism.

These likely losses include the following:

- the trade-promoting effect of the EEC customs union;
- the quantitative advantage that has led to growing specialisation and competitiveness in the world market;

PERSPECTIVE

Time for Europe to stand back and look at itself

This article was written by Muelich political scientist Professor Paul Noack.

● the increasing efficiency in sectors previously protected;

● the alleviation of the effect of de facto national monopolies and the availability of a larger supply of goods at lower prices (always excluding the agricultural market);

● and the advantages of increasing direct investment within member-countries.

The authors suggest that change is possible within the framework of existing structures.

They are well aware that it would be irresponsible to wait for a fundamental restructuring of the mechanisms of European integration.

That, after all, would be no more than an attempt to avoid what would then soon be inevitable.

The authors thus support the status quo. They feel existing structures are worth protecting.

Their assessment of world affairs is also conservative.

Deterrence, for example, is felt to be the only way of keeping the peace. President Reagan's visions of the future are not given a mention.

If anything, even fiercer competition between the blocs is expected. Tension is not expected to relax.

Ties with the United States, with all the contradictions they entail, are projected into the decades ahead. Europe is not even as much as considered as being on a par with the superpowers.

Sometimes the report is a little contrite, as when it is said about the detente policy of the 1970s that Western Europe fell foul of its own hopes and wishful thinking in respect of the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe.

It would have been better if more realistic options in the early-1970s had been outlined, even though at present the assessment of detente, whatever it may have meant to individual countries, has emerged as the main bone of contention with the United States.

The term "conservative" is not intended to imply backward in any way. There is little point in analysing the world as it might be rather than as it is.

That is why this implicitly conservative outlook has its advantages, and its finer points come to light when it is a matter of framing proposals.

They range from reciprocal recognition of academic qualifications to extending the term of office of the chairman of the Council of Ministers.

The authors are sceptical about fundamental changes in European structures, and that is what makes their point that nothing new is needed carry conviction.

It would, they argue, be enough for the European Community countries to recall the joint and successful principles of the EEC's early years.

One of their major demands is for the European Monetary System no longer to be understood merely as part and parcel of European integration.

It must, they say, be treated as what it really is, one of the key means of controlling the current economic crisis.

A greater Europeanisation of major

industries is considered necessary to ensure competitiveness on a world scale.

The authors are not alone in wondering why cooperation between European and, say, American firms ought in the long run to be any easier than cooperation between companies in member-countries of the European Community.

The fact of course remains that politicians could not behave toward the EEC in the way they do if effective ties with community institutions had been established over the past 20 years.

But they haven't end the media for one are reminded of their responsibility:

"The portrayal of Community processes in the national media and public opinion is fatal for any development of common interest or prospect of compromise."

"Individual Ministers are made out merely to be national champions sent into the ring to take arms against obdurate opponents and poorly-drafted proposals."

It is gratifying to note that it is also made clear that Community institutions themselves have failed to establish a place in European hearts:

"Community jargon has in a few years reached a peak of incomprehensibility for which centuries have been necessary in some countries."

Despite the multi-dimensional character of the attribution of guilt this pamphlet homily is centred on an aspect that is usually ignored when the situation in Europe is at issue.

It is the security policy sector. Security is given a modern definition in that economic security is felt to be just as important as military security.

The overriding background fact is stated as follows: "Of all major trading partners only Japan is more dependent than the Community is on the international exchange of goods and services."

This is one of the causes of tension in relations with the United States, which has priorities other than those of North-South ties.

Although the European Community is an economic community, albeit on incomplete one, disputes with both the United States and the Soviet Union occur mainly, if not exclusively, in the security policy sector.

This leads to the basic tenet of the entire report, which reads as follows:

"We are of the view that for the European Community the time is ripe for a reappraisal of peace and security problems."

"The Community must gain clarity about what is at stake and evolve appropriate new responsibilities in view of European unions and institutions within the framework of shared Western viewpoints."

This, as it were, is the only aspect on which a departure is made from the considered status quo approach.

It is lent added weight by the fact that the European Community, in the wake of southward expansion (which the authors advocate), is in the process of becoming virtually identical with the European part of Nato.

In two sequences of thought the need for an explicitly European security policy is discussed.

The first is based on the fact that

ideas of decoupling are strength in the United States basic feeling exists. There is little doubt that any such decoupling would be to the detriment of American interests and might to a gigantic displacement of influence of power to the disadvantage of the United States (and, of course, Europe as the victim).

"History shows that nations who are committing dreadfully derided acts, and why should States be immune to a repetition of others have made before?"

The conclusion reached is highly enough, that we can and militarily self-reliant without the States.

That, it is argued, is out of the question because, if for no other reason, it would entail an increase in spending that was domestically infeasible.

The authors also set aside a resurrection of the European Community.

But Europe must, they say, greater contribution toward policy both at the political and the operational sector.

That is the only way in which to hold its own in critical situations and crisis zones.

The experts likewise keep firmly on the ground when it comes to Europe's nuclear contribution. It is not to go out of their depth on nuclear forces and the like.

What they propose and sketch in the foreseeable future consultations in which Britain and other nuclear powers are to be included. They also stress the need for target planning, as they stress Nato's Nuclear Planning Group.

What the report has to say is not least, conservative in its mainly positive sense of the term.

The authors want nothing to do with the governments of Europe which the authors forget to mention which European integration is based on.

But that alone will be of little use to governments usually called the time in which to read papers kind.

And even if they do find it will not find time in which to read their electorates of the need for forms outlined.

It is always easier to go to the self-righteousness and to blame at the others' door.

Offering advice in politics has been a thankless task, especially matters of world affairs, and will be to be so.

That is why it is so important to resume the discussion of European problems. It is the only way in which European paralysis can be ended after having descended on such public.

This paralysis can be blamed on the government, Community institutions and organs of public opinion. The main reason why such stupidities occur that we are dealing to view as the normal state of affairs.

Specialist in outlook though what has been reviewed may be very telling comparison was drawn of one state of affairs.

"In the Community," the report "what happens is much the same as an old Spanish inn. The quality of the meal depends on what the guests are compared to contribute toward the feast."

(Deutsches Allgemeines Sonntagsblatt)

TRANSPORT

Plans to go ahead with lead-free fuel trial

Munich and West Berlin are about to go ahead with experimental lead-free petrol projects.

Munich, the plan will involve local motor vehicles. The city is buying German manufacturers about 40 cars made for export to the United States and Japan, which both have lead-free fuel.

West Berlin, the city is trying a similar experiment in conjunction with a motorists' organisation based in the city.

Lead is used to boost the octane rating of petrol. But it has long been suspected of affecting the intelligence of men and causing behavioural problems.

The British government has just accepted a Royal Commission report that lead should be phased out of petrol.

Munich, which has taken the lead in this country, is the cleanest of the West German cities, according to the Federal Environment Agency.

It has converted most of its coal-fired heating installations into the gas and piped heating.

At street level, the air in Munich is cleaner than anywhere else.

Ediger Schweickl, municipal environmental affairs officer, estimates that in Munich put out on annual 254,000 tonnes of carbon monoxide,

Was erignet sich in Deutschland? Wie sieht Deutschland die Welt? Antworten auf diese Fragen gibt Ihnen DIE WELT, Deutschlands größte, überregionale Tages- und Wochenzeitung.

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In Genf spielt Moskau auf Zeitgewinn. USA enttäuscht

Landesparlament und Bundesrat: Widerstand gegen NATO-Beitritt

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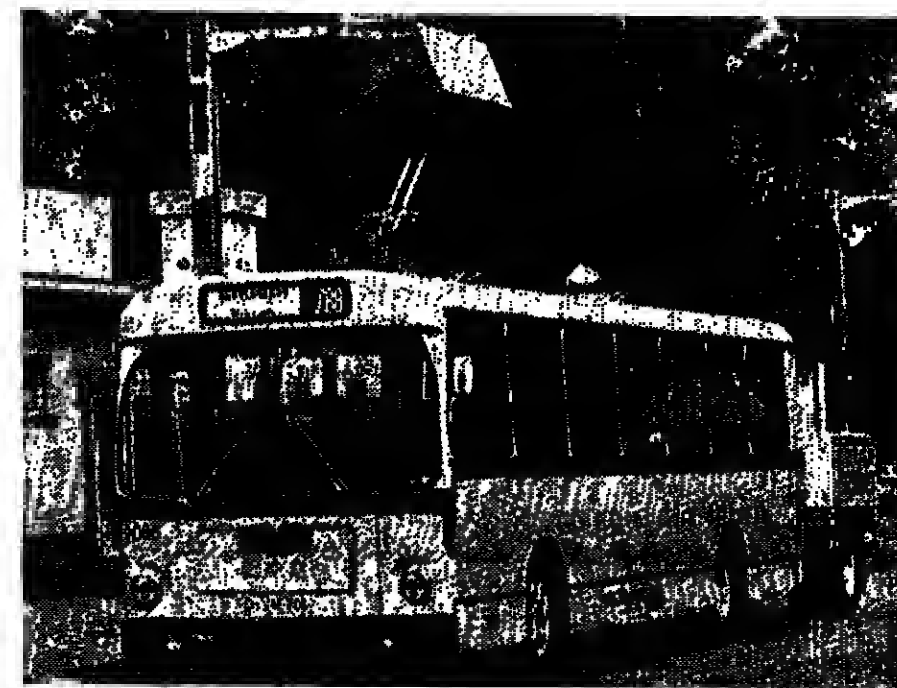
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Battery bus

Düsseldorf's transport authority is experimenting with this new battery powered bus. It uses a roof-top collector similar to the old trolley bus arm to recharge at the terminus. (Photo: dpa)

Cities and co-operations have invested heavily in public transport and traffic schemes such as pedestrian precincts, one-way systems and linked traffic lights to keep to a minimum the harmful effects of car exhausts on residents.

Herr Schweickl dismisses all these schemes as largely ineffective. He plans to strike at the root cause of the trouble.

Munich, if the plans Burgomaster Klesl has already approved are endorsed by the city council, will be the first city in the Federal Republic of Germany in which motorists will have to use lead-free fuel.

Environmental protection at the fountainhead is how Herr Klesl views the proposal. He is convinced it will reduce by about 90 per cent the count of a variety of toxins in car exhaust fumes. The lead count will naturally be reduced to zero.

In both the USA and Japan motor fuel has been lead-free since 1975, and only in combination with lead-free fuel can a special catalyst and the lambda probe be used to virtually eliminate harmful exhaust fumes.

More expensive

Buying suitable vehicles was the least of Herr Schweickl's problems. A tougher one was ensuring supplies of lead-free fuel throughout the trial period.

He was referred by the Environmental Protection Agency to Aral's Gelsenkirchen refinery, where limited quantities of lead-free fuel have been produced for some time to meet the requirements of German motor manufacturers.

The special fuel will be available at a municipal garage where private motorists may later be entitled to fill up.

Initially, Munich will have to invest extra cash in the experiment. Cars made to comply with US and Japanese regulations cost about 15 per cent more than conventional models.

And they need to be reconverted to meet a number of domestic requirements.

The lead-free fuel itself it will be about 10 pfennigs a litre more expensive than conventional fuel, while the special cars' fuel consumption will be a little higher than average.

But Herr Schweickl is convinced the extra expenses will not be too much. The

special cars will dispense with metallic finishes (a saving of roughly DM1,000 a time, he says) and other extras.

The life-span of their exhausts should be twice that of conventional vehicles. Spark plugs should need replacing less often too. So running costs seem sure to be lower.

Three years ago Herr Schweickl was Press spokesman at the Bavarian Environmental Affairs Ministry and a keen campaigner for clean car exhausts.

In those days the city's present experiment would have been unthinkable. Motor manufacturers took a dim view of such demands.

They argued that German engines relied on leaded fuel, whereas no comparison could be drawn with models designed for export to the United States and Japan.

Besides, what were needed were cars that used less fuel, whereas no comparison could be drawn with models designed for export to the United States and Japan.

Oddly enough, it was a German motor manufacturer who gave him the cue for resurrecting the plans. Lead-free fuel, a BMW spokesman said, was no longer a problem for German engines.

"Technically," says Dietmar Domröse of the Munich motor manufacturers, "cars could be converted quickly."

Herr Schweickl now plans to take the industry at its word and launch a long-term experiment. The motor industry is not unhappy to fall in with his plans either.

They are a convenient opportunity of slipping out of the line of fire in which power utilities find themselves in connection with the tree death debate.

"Now," says Herr Domröse cheerfully, "the ball is in the oil industry's court." Oil refineries have argued in the past that manufacturers were not yet ready for lead-free fuel.

The ball is also in Bonn Interior Minister Friedrich Zimmermann's court. He is shortly due to confer with the Interior Ministers of the Länder and, a few days later, with motor and oil industry managers on ways and means of changing over to unleaded fuel.

Bonn is still working on the assumption that there will need to be a European solution, or an arrangement covering the entire Common Market.

Herr Schweickl is sceptical. He has a feeling it will be all words and no action.

Christian Schneider

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 14 April 1983)

■ THE ENVIRONMENT

Waste recycling sits in a great dump of problems

Waste recycling is not the universal environmental cure-all it was once thought.

There were once great hopes of saving energy and raw materials, of economizing and preventing environmental damage, but they have given way to a more sceptical view.

Professor Alfons Buckens of Brussels University told a conference at the Protestant Church Academy in Loccum, near Hanover, he knew of not a single really satisfactory recycling facility.

None worked in accordance with the requirements of modern environmental legislation and ran at a profit at the same time.

The conversion of techniques and combinations of processes that seemed feasible in theory into practical arrangements that worked had proved more difficult than expected.

The differences in composition of domestic waste supplied presented problems time and again, while the material recycled did not sell well.

Attempts to solve secondary and tertiary environmental problems had everywhere led to unexpectedly heavy expenditure.

Installations built so far in the Federal Republic of Germany are no exception; they have failed so far to fulfill the hopes placed in them.

The recycling plant in Neuss, near Düsseldorf, works only by being attached to a waste dump, and only a small proportion of the waste is actually recycled.

The Ruhr recycling centre, designed to handle 425,000 tonnes of domestic and industrial waste a year, is admitted by its manager, Wolf-Dieter Sondermann, to be in effect little more than an incinerator.

Banking on centralisation and high technology, he says, has led to capital

investment and annual follow-up costs that impose a heavy burden on the taxpayer.

They also have the effect of blocking other means of treating waste of years. Experts likewise claim the Tübingen pilot project, which is heavily subsidised by the Bonn government, doesn't work despite having cost a fortune.

Maybe it was the spirit of the Loccum Academy that prompted speakers to be so frank and outspoken.

Over 150 people attended the conference on recycling and problems of processing (and opportunities of reducing or avoiding) domestic waste.

They were members of civic protest groups, industrial representatives, waste processors and local government officials.

Thilo Koch of the Heidelberg Institute of Energy and Environmental Research said the 1980s and 1990s could herald a rethink on integrated treatment of waste.

All waste channels might be brought together for central disposal or processing. But the rethink could possibly result in a differential approach.

The change-over might be to separation of the individual components of domestic waste and to separate recycling. But would it happen?

Pilot projects involving separate collection of categories of waste are certainly being given greater attention.

One, in Konstanz, is being carried out by Dornier, a private company interested in refuse disposal. Another, in a Frankfurt suburb, is being undertaken by the local authority refuse collection department.

The aim behind separate collection is to persuade householders to sort waste and put different categories in different dustbins.

In Frankfurt paper and glass are being collected separately in this way. Elsewhere it is hoped to collect plastic, metal, textiles and organic waste separately.

Contrary to what many experts were expecting, householders are cooperating. Motivated by environmental awareness, they are going to the trouble of putting separate waste in separate bins. In this way the volume of unsorted

domestic garbage can be cut by at least 30 per cent. It is now generally estimated.

But such experiments did not attempt to deal with the root cause, an environmentalist reminded the conference; they merely tinkered with the symptoms.

The packaging industry and food retailers came under fire for forcing more and more packaging on the consumer. It made up roughly half the volume of domestic waste, said Jürgen Orlich of the Environmental Protection Agency.

He singled out cans of soft drink as an example of the disparity between content and packaging.

The cans cost roughly 25 pfennigs, the contents (sugar, water and aromatic agents) five pfennigs at most. So consumers paid mainly for the packaging.

Reusable bottles (the ones with a deposit on them) still account for about 75 per cent of the trade, but there is a marked trend toward the non-reusable variety.

Herr Orlich said the market was on the brink of having to decide for one system or the other. At some point between 75 and 50 per cent it was no longer profitable to supply both reusable and disposable packaging.

The result would probably be a drastic increase in the number of waste bottles and cans. Separating them from other categories of domestic waste was only one solution.

Another would be to insist on reusable bottles that were returned to the manufacturer, and priority ought surely to be given to preventing waste, with recycling being a secondary consideration.

A conference working party drew up a combined programme of waste prevention and recycling against the background of a harmonious understanding of man and nature and of the finite nature of resources.

It called for a ban on the manufacture of substances that were harmful to the environment (or for the use of "closed" systems), for compulsory declaration of contents and for differential waste disposal levies (a packaging tax).

Local authorities were called on to collect various categories of waste separately, including organic kitchen waste, and to recycle them.

Consumers were to avoid superfluous packaging, boycotting manufacturers if need be, and to make greater use of fresh goods.

Helmut Hildebrandt

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 16 April 1983)

Continued from page 8

cess. Sales of the imported models (the Jetta, the Passat/Santana, the Scirocco and the VW bus) were up nearly a third in the first quarter of this year.

Yet the Santana, for instance, is competing with the much rounder Cadillac, and a Santana turbo diesel costs nearly \$4,000 more than a fully-fledged Cadillac.

"Among imported models the strategy of withdrawing to parts of the market where price war is not being waged seems to work."

But Volkswagen of America aims to corner five per cent of the US market by the mid-1980s, and that calls for more than a retreat to market nooks and crannies.

What, for that matter, is to become of the Rabbit, which as recently as two years ago looked capable of cornering an entire warren?

Is there a nook big enough for an annual output of 230,000 cars? Competition is sure to grow even fiercer. US production of the Honda Accord is soon to go into full swing.

At the end of next year Toyota and GM plan to start manufacturing a competitor to the Rabbit in California. An extra 200,000 compacts a year will then crowd an already overcrowded market.

In dollars and cents the Rabbit cannot hold its own. The price was cut by \$625 last year without boosting sales. The Japanese are in a much healthier position because they would still be making a profit if they slashed prices by 20 per cent.

Not so Volkswagen. A US Senate committee estimates that the company is losing \$800 on every car it makes in the United States.

On every car VW imports, in contrast, it is said to earn \$2,000, and these figures have yet to be disproved.

Bonn to clamp down on poison disposal

The Bonn Interior Ministry drafted a Bill to provide for controls of dangerous waste through the Federal Republic.

The step is in response to the surrounding 41 missing drums of waste from Seveso in northern Italy. Ginter Hartkopf, state secretary at the Interior Ministry, says the bill is to provide for transit permit procedures on the waste dump two years ago, about nine miles back.

Transit of special waste has assumed any importance for the Republic since the establishment of Schönberg dump.

The Bill works on the basis that toxic waste ought to be disposed in the country of origin, Dr Hartkopf says.

Anyone who wants to ship waste through the Federal Republic in future requires a permit from every Land, or Federal state, which the shipment passes.

Permits would only be issued to restrict them. They need assistance, be issued if environmental damage is likely to occur in the Republic as a result of waste disposal in a neighbouring country.

Shipments of toxic waste will no longer be allowed to cross into Germany at any crossing point to be restricted to crossings near border where substances can be stored.

The Bill would entitle the government to stipulate by decree border crossing points were to be restricted.

The Länder, Dr Hartkopf says, favour of intensifying the provisions of the Waste Disposal Act as passed by his Ministry.

The Interior Minister would be empowered to intervene in procedures for international shipments particularly dangerous substances.

In cases where overriding considerations were involved he would be entitled to issue instructions to local authorities.

Gerd

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 21 April 1983)

THE CINEMA

Schumann film brings two worlds together

Film about musicians may be popular with cinephiles. But they tend to be among serious music-lovers.

How often have we seen poor, long-suffering Chaplin on the screen? There also been films without number about Schubert, while Mozart's life has been serialised on TV.

The silver screen has even staked its claim on the life of Beethoven. Fritz Schramm, the hard-nosed businessman father of infant prodigy Clara Wieck.

But he has to give up any idea of becoming a pianist. A hand injury rules out a career at the keys. So he goes in for composing instead.

He falls in love with Wieck's gifted daughter, but her pigheaded father wants at any cost to end their liaison. They eventually go to court to get married.

Her father, who has invested all his life in his superb pianist daughter, loses the case and the young couple are finally able to marry.

But the happy end is clouded. Schramm hints that something is bound to go wrong. Two geniuses cannot possibly get on with each other.

A human tragedy is clearly in the offing. The film ends on a distinctly subdued note.

It is yet another film that relies on scraps of music by an acknowledged genius. These popular items are visually underlined by Saxon Biedermeier period pieces.

The storyline is a tale of flight and aspiration, of heartbreak and revolt, of cruelty on the part of an unbending father, of young love and its disconsolate fight for the cause.

Schramm keeps to the known facts. In precise detail he outlines the narrow confines of Schumann's Saxon surroundings.

At times he seems over-fussy in his exact directions he gives to his young

in the audience we see the young Schumann, played by Herbert Grönemeyer, with a frank and open expression.

He is carried away by the fast and furious rhythms and decides there and then to become the Paganini of the piano.

Schramm selects 10 heaven-sent, sad years of the composer's life. He sets out to learn the ropes from Friedrich Wieck, the hard-nosed businessman father of infant prodigy Clara Wieck.

But he has to give up any idea of becoming a pianist. A hand injury rules out a career at the keys. So he goes in for composing instead.

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Nastassja Kinski and Rolf Hoppe as daughter and father Wieck in 'Frühlingssinfonie'.

But much of the film is fine, emotional and carries conviction.

Other scenes are less successful. They include the one in which the young Mendelssohn, played by André Heller, is introduced.

Heller plays the part as that of an angry young man. In the process he narrowly avoids transforming the entire film into pure farce.

Nastassja Kinski is strangely rigid and somewhat unromantic as Clara Wieck. She only succeeds at times in credibly playing the part of a childlike genius at the piano.

But she does make the tragedy and buffeting suffered by Clara comprehensible.

Rolf Hoppe, the amazing character actor from Dresden, clearly commands the stage as Robert Wieck, the cruel and unbending father.

In 'Frühlingssinfonie' he is likewise a key figure, even though he is deserted and alone at the end.

He imbues his difficult part with a decided note of tragedy, combining dignity yet ennobling paternal love with a dash of avil genius.

Friedrich Luft
(Die Welt, 16 April 1983)

Old discarded Bogart take gives Germans a lesson in editing



Rigid communication rituals... Blick aus dem harmonischen Gefängnis.

(Photo: © Werner Nekes)

city of shadows as the daylight slowly changes.

Nekes, who at 40 is almost a grand old man of a predominantly youthful genre, features half-naked young people in rigid communication rituals dancing through the gates.

It is a work of technical perfection and exciting aestheticism he has submitted to the North Rhine-Westphalian Film Bureau.

In the quest for a new subjectivity a number of documentary filmmakers entered striking material. It included Michael Lentz' 'Veränderung'.

It tells the tale of a young Turkish woman and the problems she has with emancipation and integration.

She falls to live up to the expectations placed in her either at home or at work, where her instructor sounds a note of resignation.

Too much is expected of her; that is why this film for once was too short; it only hints at the many difficulties that arise.

Two other very personal films carried conviction at Oberhausen. They were Kirsten Jepsen's 'Kaiser, König, Bettelmann', the sensitively-told tale of a Berlin street, and 'Eigentlich lebe ich ganz normal', made by Bochum trio Hartmut

Continued on page 14

■ CONFERENCES

European, Arab, scholars, diplomats meet for exchange of ideas

Delegates from 30 European and Arab nations met for five days of talks in Hamburg this month under the auspices of the German Oriental Institute.

It was an attempt to revive the dialogue between Europeans and Arabs that began 10 years ago. But it had limited success.

It took only until the second day before all the prejudices came out. But it was ill-fated from the beginning.

The assassination in Portugal of Issam Sartawi, a leading moderate member of the PLO, and the failure of the bid to involve Jordan in the Middle East peace process dominated the talks.

It was a domination at the expense of themes involving European-Arab cultural coexistence.



had little option but to admit to ingrained prejudices.

The following day, Edward Mortimer of the London Times went a step further and accused the West of not having rid itself of its guilt complex towards the Jews, of having ignored the Palestinian problem until the 1967 Israeli-Egyptian War and of having been indifferent to the occupation of Arab territories.

He said that interest in the Arab world was purely economically motivated and that it did not arise until the

1973 oil shock endangered affluence at home. Discussions on the periphery of the meeting showed that there were fewer mutual complexes and accusations. They also showed that many questions remain open, among them: Why are neither the West Europeans nor the Americans prepared to let the PLO take part in deciding about the future of the Palestinians? Why do the people of Western countries believe that the Arabs want to get rich at the expense of the industrial nations and

that they are constantly threatening to use the oil weapon?

Why does the West equate the Islamic religion with the terror in Iran? Do the Europeans really only want Arab oil and money and do Arab problems really only bore them?

A lot of innocent people will die in the Middle East before another attempt

to promote a European-Arab dialogue can be made. Unless the West succeeds in coordinating its Middle East policy to make it acceptable for both Israelis and Arabs, and unless the Arabs rid themselves of their mistrust of Western Europe and the USA in respect of the peace process, the European-Arab dialogue will be buried before it has borne its first fruits. The burial did not take place in Hamburg, primarily because there was no shortage of goodwill, despite all the criticism.

Baha Güngör
(General-Anzeiger Bonn,
13 April 1983)

Multiplying Moslems

Islam is the second religion, numerically speaking, after Christianity. Moslems include about 1.4 million in Germany, 120,000 in Yugoslavia, 80,000 in Arab lands, 20,000 in Iran and 1,500 in Germany. Pictured is a mosque in Hamburg.

(Photo: Sven Simon)

States take steps to introduce Islamic religious lessons

Several Länder are taking steps towards introducing Islamic religious instruction for the country's 400,000 Moslem children.

The lead is being taken in North-Rhine Westphalia where a one-year experiment involving 19 Turkish teachers has been completed.

Dr Klaus Gebauer heads a small team involved in developing the Islamic curriculum. He says the aims of Moslem education are to:

- Make Moslem children born in Germany aware of Islamic tradition
- Provide guidelines through this tradition
- Help an Islamic identity to develop in a non-Islamic world
- Promote good relations between

Turks and Germans, Moslems and Christians.

Lower Saxony's Education Minister, Georg Herndl Oeschatz (CDU) voiced that the Constitution type of instruction mandatory in Christian schools.

The constitutionally guaranteed instruction at school is interpreted as relating not only to Christianity, Oeschatz argues.

The North Rhine-Westphalia Minister, Jürgen Grottel (SPD), and Berlin Education Minister, Hanna Renute Laurien (CDU), Karl-Heinz Walter of North Westphalia's Education Ministry that following the year's trial state, guidelines will be issued to elementary schools for the 1983/84 year.

Dr Gebauer says it was not familiarise Turkish teachers today's approach to religion in German schools.

"What the Turkish teachers most difficult was to establish between actual experience in the religious principles of the Koran and the Christian churches are in the North-Rhine Westphalia experiment with interest. They do not have problems about the teaching Islamic ideas in itself.

But they are concerned about the future of Christian inter-denominational schools where both Islamic and Christian principles are taught side by side.

The response of Turkish teachers whose children attended the experimental instruction was positive.

One religious leader said: "In religious instruction we could not cut down on or even abolish the Koran schools."

Klaus Gebauer
(Deutsches Allgemeine Zeitung)

HEALTH

Drugs and alcohol together 'a startling combination'

When alcohol and drugs are taken together, the results can be startling. A meeting on road safety has been

held in Hamburg. Professor Hans-Joachim Wagder, of

University of a forensic medicine department, said that the main feature of the combination was that they heighten the effect of one another.

His research figures indicated that accidents were three and a half times more likely to occur when the effect of alcohol was boosted by a drug.

Addressing the Deutsche Verkehrssicherheits meeting in Innsbruck, Professor Wagder said that between 20 and 25 per cent of accidents had had studied throughout Germany in which the driver had an alcohol level of less than 0.08 per cent were essentially due to

the conclusion was that breathalysers for alcohol were not enough. There should be tests for drugs as well. The law should set an upper limit for

In a study limited to the Saar, he had found drugs in 18.2 per cent of the blood samples taken from people the

police had stopped for driving erratically. In 13 per cent of the cases, the drug level was so high that the driver should not have been driving.

The most frequent drugs were barbiturates commonly used in sleeping pills and tranquillisers.

In one test, 23.7 per cent of drug-connected accidents involved people with an alcohol level of below 0.08 per cent.

The meeting was told that tests for drugs posed no technical problems. Despite this, the connection between drugs and fitness to drive was still largely ignored because police usually concentrated on checking the amount of alcohol in the blood.

The legal position on drugs and driving is that it is up to the driver to ensure that his reflexes are unimpaired.

Action against a driver is only taken if he has become conspicuous to the police. But once a driver does draw attention to himself, it is usually too late.

The problem lies in the risky grey zone where no erratic driving is evident and it is here there is no legal help. Experts are only called in when clear facts show that a person has become a menace on the road.

It is doubtful whether the introduction of detailed guidelines for a driver's licence, as laid down in the first stage of the provisions for an EEC driver's li-

cence, and regular control check-ups would help.

But it must be ensured that the individual does not endanger the community as a whole because there are too few regulations.

What matters is to tell the public about the dangers through institutions, the media and doctors.

The doctor must tell the patient how to ensure that drugs do not impair his driving ability. The final decision rests with the patient but the doctor can at least say that he pointed out the risks.

But it would be wrong to consider only the side effects without balancing them against a drug's positive effects.

The Innsbruck seminar showed that, when weighing risks against benefits, doctors opt in favour of benefits when it comes to treating cardiovascular disorders.

Germany has 4.5 million drivers with high blood pressure. Drugs to reduce the blood pressure could make them fit to drive again.

But doctors at the meeting rejected

the use of drugs which affect the central nervous system because they could lead to dryness in the mouth, a lack of concentration and tiredness.

Other drugs won approval. Included are the beta blockers range. They do not reduce alertness or slow the reactions.

In severe cases, drugs and faith in their effectiveness are not enough.

Professor Bernd Friedl and Herbert Lawrenz suggested that people with severe high blood pressure should have follow-up examinations at least every three years.

Another important suggestion was that drivers should proceed cautiously when beginning treatment for high blood pressure.

Ulrich Schmidt suggested that the phase in which the blood pressure changes from high to normal could temporarily affect a driver's reflexes. It is best not to drive at all during the first few days after starting treatment, he told the meeting.

Astrid Forberger
(Frankfurter Rundschau, 9 April 1983)

Meteorological stations all over the world



supplied the data arranged in see-at-a-glance tables in these new reference works. They include details of air and water temperature, precipitation, humidity, sunshine, physical stress of climate, wind conditions and frequency of thunderstorms.

These figures compiled over the years are invaluable both for planning journeys to distant countries and for scientific research.

Basic facts and figures for every country in the world form a preface to the tables. The emphasis is on the country's natural satellites, on climate, population, trade and transport.

The guides are handy in size and flexibly bound, indispensable for daily use in commerce, industry and the travel trade.

Four volumes are available:

- North and South America, 172 pp., DM 22.80;
- Asia/Australia, 240 pp., DM 24.80;
- Africa, 130 pp., DM 19.80;
- Europe/USA, 240 pp., DM 24.80

Look it up in Brockhaus

F. A. Brockhaus, Postfach 1709; D-6200 Wiesbaden 1



Liquor picker

This electronic device to measure the amount of alcohol in the blood is being tested by German police. It supersedes the breathalyzer. (Photo: Drägerwerk)

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Astrid Forberger
(Frankfurter Rundschau, 9 April 1983)

Parents warned against giving children pharmaceuticals

Many German parents give their children drugs because they can't sleep, and have problems at school.

In a survey by the Federal Centre for Health Information, 42 per cent of the parents interviewed saw nothing wrong with giving children harmless drugs to improve their ability to concentrate.

The survey warns about drug company advertising. For example, these slogans:

"Helps in cases of physical and mental exhaustion, inability to concentrate and tiredness at school";

"Helps with flighty children and combats absentmindedness";

"Meaningfully supplements study for exams".

The Centre says sleeping pills and tranquillisers are extremely dangerous. They hinder the child's activities and can be habit forming.

Taken in excess, they can make children fidgety and cause insomnia. Worse still, they can lead to liver damage, the Centre says.

Drugs advertised as improving performance and the ability to concentrate mostly consist of lecithin, glutamic acids and vitamins.

But there was no need for them because diet should ensure an adequate supply of lecithin. One egg yolk a day was enough.

One glass of milk had more glutamic acid than a pharmaceutical preparation costing DM40.

It was scientifically not proved that glutamic acid improved mental performance.

It was better — and much cheaper — if B-group vitamins were taken in the form of natural foods. Grain products, legumes, nuts and meat all have plenty.

If a child is unable to concentrate properly there is usually a reason. Frequently it is tension between the parents or the birth of a baby, and the fear of competition. In such cases, it is best to see a doctor.

And if the inability to concentrate is really due to vitamin deficiency, it is best remedied by a healthy, vitamin and protein-rich diet plus a multivitamin preparation.

If these intelligence pills have any effect at all, it is of a psychological nature by giving parents and children a straw to hang on to.

(Mannheimer Morgen, 9 April 1983)

Hitting the high note: Egyptian singer Laila Fares shows delegates a cultural thing or two. (Photo: Ulrike Scherwinski)

No speakers succeeded in suggesting practical ideas for the protection of common cultural values.

The Arab cultural experts as usual zeroed in on Israel, accusing it of dismantling Islamic and Christian cultural values.

The Europeans had nothing with which to counter Arab mistrust towards them. In fact they almost beat their breasts in an attempt to pin the blame for the Middle East dilemma on themselves.

On the first day, Helga Schuchardt, Hamburg's senator for cultural affairs, convincingly advocated the preservation of Islamic and Third World identity. But when talking with Arabs and Germans who had no answer to the question as to why the Germans were unable to accept the idea of Moslems keeping their identity in Germany instead of surrendering it. She

Little Moslems learning from the Koran at the Islamic Centre in Cologne.

(Photo: Sven Simon)

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■ OUR WORLD

Smiley's People, Smersh and that mob still hanging around in the German Cold

East Bloc intelligence work in the Federal Republic is like in other major Western countries — it involves not just politics but also military, industrial, economic and research secrets. Germany is a favourite place for spies because of its geographical position. It is also an important member of Nato, it is economically strong and its industry and research are highly developed.

Embassies, consulates and trade missions play a major role. They give agents a cover and immunity from prosecution. They can only be expelled.

On 24 June 1981, German security officers arrested the manager of a Munich firm, Laser Electronic, and his wife as they met with the deputy leader of the Soviet trade mission, Viktor Petrovich Shepelev.

Shepelev was not only on the trade mission. He was a GRU (Soviet military intelligence) officer. His tactics en route to meeting contacts kept German counter-intelligence officers busy.

He would wander through Munich for hours, apparently without purpose. Sometimes he would go into deserted side streets and then re-emerge and go off in another direction.

His car, easily recognisable as belonging to the Soviet mission, would be left far from the meeting place.

Shepelev specialised in getting strategically important electronic devices which are on the export embargo of Cocom.

Cocom, consisting of the Nato countries (except Iceland) and Japan, is the organisation that decides, on a strategic basis, what should be allowed to be exported to East Bloc countries.

Shepelev failed in 1979 to get a military laser range finder but he managed to get hold of a carbon dioxide laser for DM100,000 in cash.

The device was ordered in Britain, sent to a freight forwarder in Vienna and sent on from there to Moscow.

Shepelev was expelled from the Federal Republic in July 1981. A colleague, Vladimir Klichenko, also had to go, two months later. He had offered to manage a company called Varioline DM26,000 to get a night sighting device.

Several months before Kolcheko, acting for Avinexport, the Soviet trade agency, had tried to obtain aviation information.

A tough little case was Genadiy Arkadyevich Batashev. He was arrested outside the Germanic Museum in Cologne in mid-February this year. His misfortune was to have operated without diplomatic immunity meaning that he has to stand trial instead of being expelled.

Batashev's plan was to buy data transmission and coding devices on the Cocom list through a management consultant and to obtain classified EEC documents and sophisticated electronic components. But the KGB agent's plans came to naught when German counter-intelligence officers intervened.

Other East Bloc countries also try to get Cocom items.

Thus, for instance, the Czechoslovakian intelligence agency's Department for Science and Technology works with the Prague Ministry for Technological and Investment Development which, in

France has expelled 47 Soviet diplomats, journalists and businessmen for spying. It is not the first time a Western nation has made a mass expulsion of East Bloc envoys for this reason. It won't be the last. The Federal Republic of Germany is a favourite haunt for spies. Martin Ernst put this report together for *Rheinischer Merkur/Christ und Welt*.

its turn, controls several intelligence agents at the Czech embassy in Bonn.

The number of known Czechoslovakian intelligence agents operating at the Bonn embassy rose considerably in 1981, according to German counter-intelligence.

Military espionage, procurement of Cocom goods, surveillance of emigrants and scientific and economic espionage are seen as the major functions of this group.

Czechoslovakia's electronics ministry, which was established in April 1980, seemed in a particular hurry. It instructed Prague's embassy in Bonn to either buy or obtain blueprints for such electronic components as microprocessors.

The embassy employees working for the secret service are supported by members of the Czechoslovakian trade mission in Cologne.

Pavel Stohr, second secretary at the Czechoslovakian Embassy, even succeeded in becoming a full-fledged member of the German Society for Position Fixing and Navigation (DGON).

DGON, supported by Bonn and the individual states of the Federal Republic of Germany, develops radar, radio and space technology.

The Prague foreign trade company, Omnipol is also involved in this game. It enlisted German businessmen to obtain parts and information relating to the German Leopard II tank and the multi-role combat aircraft, the Tornado.

Even small East Bloc countries like Bulgaria are hoping to achieve a "transfer of technology" free of charge.

A commercial attaché at the Bulgarian embassy in Bonn attracted the attention of German counter-intelligence officers when he approached various German companies in a bid to obtain electronic devices and components in the fields of laser, communications, radiation, precision, semiconductor and similar technologies.

To beat Cocom's restrictions, Sofia's

Beifuss, Jürgen Saik and Rainer Wanzel.

In the unending idyll of the East Frisian countryside they portray a woman who hunts ducks for a living, lives without electricity or running water and quotes marvellous extracts from her "fan mail" in which she is hailed as a dropout.

Two other outstanding entries were Pavel Schnabel's *Überleben* and Maria Lang's *Familiengruft*.

In *Überleben* (Survival) cameraman Schnabel, who in this instance is more important than director Hartmut Schenck, portrays with unequally senati-

man in Bonn (who frequently acts as a private individual rather than an embassy employee) makes a point of ordering the items in very small and inconspicuous numbers.

Even disregarding the strategic damage, the commercial harm caused by this kind of operation is enormous.

The number of known or suspected spies among the employees of official and semi-official Soviet missions in the Federal Republic of Germany (total staff 408) is rising.

According to the Office for the Protection of the Constitution, there are 109 known Soviet agents. Another 77 are suspected, among them 19 out of 23 Soviet media correspondents in the Bonn/Cologne region and all seven correspondents accredited in West Berlin.

The increase at the Soviet embassy in Bonn first became conspicuous in 1981. Especially the military attaché (the post was created in 1976) expanded his staff from the original three to nine in 1981. All are members of the GRU military intelligence service.

The Soviet military missions to the armed forces of the three Western Allies, stationed in Frankfurt, Baden-Baden and Bünde (Westphalia), are staffed entirely by GRU experts. There are currently 50.

Their task is to spy on the Bundeswehr and Nato troops in Germany.

In the course of extensive reconnaissance trips (increasingly done at night), they frequently show up at strategically important installations such as armament, energy and communications centres. They also nose around roads, rail tracks, waterways and harbour installations.

They often use muddy and therefore illegible ear licence plates and leather jackets worn over uniform tunics.

On 30 January this year a Soviet military mission (SMM) car from Bünde was involved in a traffic accident in a prohibited Bundeswehr installation in Schleswig-Holstein.

The number of such incidents rose from 47 in 1980 to 87 in 1981.

SMM spies are becoming increasingly aggressive, and car chases a little like those in James Bond films are no rarity these days.

The latest incident happened on 5 April, two kilometres from the nuclear research centre in Jülich in North Rhine-Westphalia.

After a wild chase, the police managed to stop an SMM vehicle whose pas-

sivity a man who is so oppressed by the sameness of his daily routine that he sees taking part in a marathon as his last chance. He survives — by dropping out.

Familiengruft (Family Vault), subtitled *A Love Poem to My Mother*, is Maria Lang's first film. It is one of the international jury seems to have missed.

She wields the fascination of an entirely subjective film language to make an extraordinary emotional confession: full of alien accusation, fragile and charming detachment and subjective personal proximity.

For 10 minutes the new subjectivity has a field day.

Michael Schmitz

(Westdeutsche Allgemeine, 13 April 1983)

sengers instantly claimed immunity.

There is also every reason to think that these Soviet military could provide their fellow-spies with assistance.

It is hardly a coincidence that the victim agent set up his "dead leg" along the route of one of his colleagues.

This is given weight by the fact that the first German agent to be killed was a Soviet spy who was supposed to be out of nuclear secrets and who was killed in the Baden-Baden SMM car accident in January 1979, complete with a list of spies operating in this area.

Hidden in a wooden crate, the victim transported him back to East Germany.

Disgruntled with life in East Germany, he returned to West Germany and became a public figure.

The head of the Baden-Baden Major General Vladimir Klimov recalled to Moscow temporarily in December 1981 and replaced for a month. It is indelible of how safe GRU experts feel in Germany once they have been uncovered and their work as spies had happened.

For instance, two KGB spies as diplomats at Moscow's Bonn office are still in their posts although they were unmasked by an American as far back as 1974. The Soviet did not deny their activities.

In mid-1981 Felix Vinogradov, Soviet trade mission in Cologne, "turn" a Hamburg intelligence using a KGB agent for a job.

Much of the intelligence collected against West Germany is out by the GDR although it has

maintained a low profile.

A former fellow prisoner of German border guard Wilhelm

hild who fled to West Germany reported that he had been

by a member of the GDR who

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help to kidnap Weinhold, the

GDR wanted for murder in

with his armed escape.

As opposed to other Communist intelligence agencies, the GDR

allow its top operatives to work

Germany in an official capacity.

Instead, they tended to depend

called "illegals," whose influence

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This has prompted the GDR to

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For the counter-intelligence

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Marin

(Niederrheinischer Merkur)

MODERN LIVING

Expensive soft-drink policy in pubs is luring youth to alcohol, accuses MP

Bonn Bundestag MP in threatening to take court action to force the catering industry to reduce the price of soft drinks.

He says they sell beer too cheaply. Drinks should be cut to offer a competitive choice.

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(Niederrheinischer Merkur)

Yet they blame the breweries. Breweries sell soft drinks too but urge publicans to sell mainly beer, say the publicans.

They say they are forced by the terms of their contract with the breweries to sell beer cheapest.

Breweries do indeed lean on customers. Loans are made against an obligation to order such and such a quantity of beer in a given period.

Publicans tied by terms such as these are naturally under pressure to push the sales of beer. Often, too, the more they sell the higher the profit margin.

Breweries disclaim responsibility. They say they don't dictate prices in any way. Publicans are free to charge what they want and to sell non-alcoholic drinks for the same price as their beer, or less, if they want to.

So the two brewers' associations lay the blame fairly and squarely at the retailers' door, while publicans just as energetically disclaim responsibility for alcoholism among the young.

"Alcoholism," says Frithjof Wahl of the Hotel and Catering Association, "begins at home." Yet he admits that pricing could be dangerous.

That is why the association advises members to sell at least one non-alcoholic drink for no more than the price they charge for the cheapest alcoholic

one.

Publicans and caterers are unlikely to take kindly to this recommendation. They calculate turnover by the number of chairs they have, and no-one likes to see a customer spending too much time sipping at a glass of mineral water.

Beer-drinkers, in contrast, are always welcome. Experience shows that they either leave after the first couple of beers or stay for more (and down them fast). Beer soon goes stale.

Beer is not for nothing the cheapest drink in many bars.

Bavarian Economic Affairs Minister Anton Jaumann feels this is a very short-sighted outlook. More than once he has appealed to publicans to sell at least one non-alcoholic drink for no more than the price of a beer.

There are consumer reasons why he is so insistent on this advice. He feels many fathers are reluctant to take the family out for a drink because non-al-

coholic drinks for the children are even more expensive than the beer.

A survey for the Bonn Youth and Family Affairs Ministry would certainly seem to suggest that providing at least one non-alcoholic drink for the same price as a beer would be an effective contribution toward the campaign against youth alcoholism.

Over 7,000 young people aged between 12 and 24 were asked whether they would do without alcohol if a non-

alcoholic drink were the cheapest on the menu.

Forty-five per cent said they never touched alcohol; 31 per cent said they would still drink alcohol; and 23 per cent said they would swap to the non-alcoholic drink.

Herr Linsmeyer has had the issue probed from the legal angle in a survey drawn up for him by the backroom boys at the Bonn Bundestag.

They say that publicans (and there are many of them) who charge the same price or more for non-alcoholic drinks as for alcoholic beverages are in breach of the Licensed Premises Act.

They also say that the prices charged for non-alcoholic drinks must in general be lower than for alcoholic ones.

Wolfgang Hoffmann

(Die Zeit, 8 April 1983)

Lifeline for young victims of 'religious Pied Pipers'

West Berlin municipal authorities and the Protestant Church have set up a telephone "lifeline" for young people in need of help to break with obscure religious denominations.

The aim is to help fight controversial youth sects and religious Pied Pipers and to provide a point of contact for young people who are unable to quit under their own steam.

Thomas Gandow, 36, the Protestant minister who runs the service, says sects and youth religions have a firm hold on over 10,000 young people in the city.

So a special unit of the municipal youth department has been set up to work full-time on observation and analysis of the activities and recruitment methods of roughly 500 religious youth groups in Berlin.

Rev. Gandow has lent a helping hand to young people keen to break with such groups, and to their families, who are often on the verge of despair, since 1978.

Berlin more than other German cities is seen by youth sects as the foremost test market and centre of activities at present, he says.

His interest in them dates back to February 1978, when Ananda Margis, Helmut Kleinknecht, 28, and Erika Ruppert, 24, committed suicide.

On the steps of the Kaiser Wilhelm Memorial Church, on Kurfürstendamm, they poured petrol over themselves and set themselves on fire as a gesture of personal sacrifice to their guru.

Many youth sects have long been re-

in Jerusalem too. The number of ministers who favour unilateral withdrawal from Lebanon and decoupling from what they feel is a problem that defies solution may still be small, but they are gaining increasing support.

Israel has so far banked on the Christians and been disappointed time and again. But the Moslems are not prepared to negotiate with Jerusalem for fear of neighbouring Moslem countries.

The Druses are on good terms with Damascus, whereas the Shi'ites are heavily influenced by Tehran.

Israeli officials are already wondering what use an agreement that is not even in control in its own capital city, Beirut.

Joseph Canaan

(Heraldtribune, 20 April 1983)

lied to be dangerous. They exert massive psychological pressure on young people who are often forced to break with friends and parents and made financially dependent.

The dangerous sects, in the opinion of specialists, include the Bhagwan movement, the Scientology Church, the AAO (short for Aktionsanalytische Organisation) and the Process Rastete association.

Gandow feels the reason why they are so attracted by Berlin is that the city is a centre where, more than anywhere else in Germany, young people are engaged in a quest for identity and a sense of community.

Initial invitations are to unexpected discussion groups, stage performances and nature cure or alighting courses.

At these courses young people are brought under psychological control by means of meditation, hypnosis and mystical rites.

Some groups show no lack of imagination in gaining access to public funds. Rev. Gandow cites as an example the AAO, an organisation set up by Austrian artist Otto Muehl.

It established a charitable foundation innocuously entitled the Welfare Education Association that invested DM3.5m in a villa in Steglitz, West Berlin, for use as a youth centre.

This youth centre is said to have received up to DM1.5m in public subsidies.

Newcomers to the AAO are said to undergo masochistic concentration camp games as a test of their obedience. In them they are subjected to abject humiliation against a background of loud-speaker gunfire and Hitler speeches.

A Berlin offshoot of the Bhagwan movement recently opened a discotheque on Kurfürstendamm in the heart of the city, doubtless to recruit new members and not just to keep existing members on their toes.

Rev. Gandow offers help and advice to young people who have fallen for profit-conscious apostles of salvation in various ways.

In addition to his telephone lifeline (Berlin 833 30 90) he is associated with a parents' group, the Parental Initiative Against Mental Dependence and Religious Extremism.

This group has ties with a country-wide organisation with its head office in Bonn.

F. Diederichs

(Die Welt, 12 April 1983)